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ONLINE
Check out more online at dailytexanonline.com

LECTURE

Comey to speak on campus Thursday

By Kayla Meyertons
@kemeyertons

FBI Director James Comey will speak at the University on Thursday at an event open to the public.

Comey will speak in a symposium titled, “Intelligence in Defense of the Homeland,” as part of UT’s Intelligence Studies Project Spring Conference.

Comey appeared Monday before the House Intelligence Committee to testify regarding Russian interference in the 2016 election. He is best known for testifying in the Hillary Clinton email controversy in November 2016.

The event will take place at the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center Ballroom from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Comey will speak at 10:30 a.m. and will not be taking questions from reporters.

Registration is currently full for the event, and the waitlist is now open.

Other important speakers include Thomas Bossert, the assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterrorism, and William McRaven, UT System Chancellor.

STATE

House passes texting and driving ban

By Catherine Marfin
@catherinemarfin

While some students hit the road for spring break vacation, the Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate worked to pass bills cracking down on texting while driving.

House Bill 62, which passed 114-32 last Thursday, bans texting while driving statewide and is now moving to the Senate for final approval. The bill would make texting while driving a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine anywhere from \$25 to \$99 for first-time

offenders and up to \$200 for repeat offenders. This is the fourth time the bill’s sponsor, State Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland, is attempting to turn the bill into a law.

Additionally, Senate Bill 31, which is identical to HB 62 and written by Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, is on its way through the Senate for the fifth time since 2009.

“Driving is a privilege, not a right, and it is the Texas Legislature’s duty to preserve Texans’ right to safety,” Zaffirini told the Senate Committee on State Affairs last Monday.

While more than 90 cities in Texas have enacted hands-free laws, Texas is currently one of four states with no statewide ban on texting while driving.

In 2015, the city of Austin enacted its own hands-free ordinance. First-time offenders face a fine of \$220, while second-time offenders face fines up to \$500, said Austin Police Department Sgt. Michael Barger. APD issued 5,122 citations to drivers who violated the hands-free ordinance in 2015 and 4,965 citations in 2016,

DRIVING BAN page 2



Infographic by Rena Li | Daily Texan Staff

UNIVERSITY

Golf course may swing to state ownership

By Claire Allbright
@claireallbright

Lions Municipal Golf Course, one of the first desegregated golf courses in the South, would be transferred from University ownership to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department if a bill considered by the legislature passes.

Senate Bill 822, authored by State Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls, would require Texas Parks and Wildlife to continue operating the land as a golf course, otherwise, ownership of the course would revert back to UT.

The golf course is part of the Brackenridge Tract, a 300 acre piece of land donated to the University by George W. Brackenridge. SB 822 would transfer only the 141 acre golf course to state control, leaving the rest under University ownership.

Estes said the course should be cared for by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department because of its historical significance. He said the bill’s intention is to protect the golf course from any University development.



Mary Pistorius | Daily Texan Staff

Ownership of Lions Municipal Golf Course would transfer to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department should Senate Bill 822 be passed. The golf course is currently on land owned by the University of Texas.

“I have never been anything but proud of the University of Texas ... but I feel very strongly that what we will hear today represents a miscalculation on the University’s part,” Estes said. “Value is not simply a

monetary calculation. History has value.”

UT President Gregory Fennes said the University is committed to preserving the history of the golf course and they are still negotiating with the city of

Austin about future plans for the land. At this point, neither side has come to any definitive solution, Fennes said.

Fennes said currently the University receives \$490,000 annually from

leasing the golf course, which goes toward scholarships, bringing distinguished faculty to the University and funding innovative programs.

GOLF page 2

CITY

ICE raids retaliation against Austin policies, judge reveals

By Lisa Dreher
@lisa_dreher97

A federal judge revealed Monday that federal agents told him last month’s immigration enforcement raids in Austin were in response to a policy protecting undocumented immigrants.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Andrew Austin said Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents notified him and another judge about a specific operation during a meeting in late January. The mid-February raids occurred after the Travis County Sheriff’s Office stopped allowing ICE agents to detain inmates without warrants space on Feb. 1.

“We had a briefing ... that we could expect a big operation, and at least it was related to us in that meeting that it was the result of the sheriff’s new policy, that this was going to happen,” Austin said



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Protesters march through the streets of downtown Austin on the Day of Action for Immigrants and Refugees on Feb. 28. The Austin ICE raids resulted in 51 arrests with 28 of those not having committed previous crimes.

in open court.

Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez said she would not accept agents’ requests to detain inmates suspected of being undocumented without a warrant from a judge. Hernandez said in a video released

in February that her policy is to maintain trust between local law enforcement and the immigrant community.

Austin said he was told a meeting between the ICE field

ICE page 3

UNIVERSITY

UT may have to offer more student loan information

By Mikaela Cannizzo
@mikaela16

UT would be required to provide students who receive financial aid with information regarding estimates of the amount of student debt they might incur under a bill unanimously passed by the Senate Monday.

Senate Bill 887, sponsored by State Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, requires certain state institutions within the student loan program to annually report specific debt information such as the amount borrowed to date and estimates of future payments. According to the bill analysis report, the bill aims to promote a legislative higher education goal of significantly reducing student debt in Texas by 2030.

“With student debt continuing to rise, it is imperative that students be

well-informed on the loan debt they are incurring and better understand the short-term and long-term implications of that debt,” Seliger said.

While UT does not provide estimations of debt that will have to be paid off in the future, students who receive loans can currently check the amount of aid they borrow each year online, according to the University’s Office of Financial Aid. A system called “CASH” (Check Aid Status Here), which students can access through UT Direct, provides this information.

The University’s website additionally offers a link to the National Student Loan Data System, which shows students the total amount of federal loans they borrow while attending a university.

Under the bill, the Texas

LOAN INFO page 2

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High
84

Low
65

I don't know about you, but Akshay's feelin' 22.

LOAN INFO

continues from page 1

Higher Education Coordinating Board, an agency that provides leadership for higher education in the state, would assist institutions in relaying information about estimates of the total state and federal loan amount incurred by students, total payoff amount and total monthly repayment amount. Seliger's bill does not specifically state a method for distributing this information, but suggests a mobile app as an example.

During a recent committee meeting on SB 887, State Sen. Dawn Buckingham, R-Lakeway, expressed her concern about the clarity of the messages students will potentially receive regarding their loan information.

"I just worry about the students really understanding what they're getting, and it being put in a way where it's digestible information for them," Buckingham said during the hearing.

Ginger Gossman, senior director of the coordinating board, said she wants to find a way to make the information relevant and readable to students. She said the agency is considering a letter Indiana University sends out to students about their debt information as a template, but plans to consult with institutions and students to collaborate on how best to distribute this information.

"Their letter was the beginning of a change on their campus and changed the culture to drawing attention toward student indebtedness and helping students think through this more clearly," Gossman said during the hearing.

Seliger said the bill would not replace current university procedures for providing this information, but rather sets new requirements that universities must comply with if they are not already doing so. While UT would not be required to alter reporting methods for the information they already provide about student debt, they would have to add future debt estimations to the same website or create a new way to share the information with students if the bill passes.

The bill awaits assignment to a House of Representatives committee, which will determine if it continues to advance in the Legislature.

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Taran Champagne, a member of Texas Dragon/Lion Dance Team, performs lion dance Tuesday afternoon on Gregory Plaza. Texas Dragon/Lion Dance Team is a performance driven lion dance group based in Austin, Texas.

GOLF

continues from page 1

"I view the land as part of our endowment ... that has been gifted to the University for the purposes of education," Fenves said.

Professional golfer Ben Crenshaw testified Tuesday in favor of the bill and said his priority is saving the course because of its immeasurable value to the people who play there.

"I'm a product of the University of Texas," Crenshaw said. "I grew up in the shadow of the Tower and I love it, too, and this has been very difficult for me. But I am going to put up whatever reputation I have for saving this course."

Douglas Brinkley, CNN Presidential Historian and history professor at Rice University, said Muny is a priceless piece of civil rights heritage that needs to be protected.

"The University of Texas is now going nationally and internationally saying 'We don't give a damn about national historic registered places,'" Brinkley said.

"They are saying 'Who cares, money is more important than American heritage,' and I think that's a bad message."

Sen. Don Huffines, R-Dallas, said the legislature would be setting a bad precedent if they adopt this bill.

"I feel like this is University property and the legislature should stay out of the way," Huffines said.

Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, questioned whether the legislature has ever redistributed land in such a way. Seliger said he sees this bill as circumventing negotiations and taking away opportunities from the University to develop the land and generate more revenue.

Estes said he was unadvised as to whether a land deal like this has been done before, but said the legislature has the authority to move the land from one state agency to another.

The bill was left pending in the Senate Committee of Natural Resources and Economic Development and will be reconsidered at a later date.

STATE

UT, A&M grads set aside rivalry for funds petition

By London Gibson
@londongibson

UT and Texas A&M graduate students are coming together to form a coalition to petition for legislative support and funding.

The students co-authored a joint resolution last month which established the partnership between the two schools. This resolution is the first step toward working with other Texas universities to approach state and national legislators to advocate for common issues.

"At the end of the day, exchanging ideas is integral for legislators and for us as students," said Suchi Sundaram, legislative affairs director for UT's Graduate Student Assembly. "Coming together for numbers not only increases our support but it also validates it."

The resolution is the first time that A&M has made a joint resolution of this kind with another university, said Jamie Wangler, advisor to the Graduate and Professional Student Council at A&M.

Both legislative bodies signed the resolution in February after Paul Taele, President of the A&M graduate council, reached out to Sundaram and Wills Brown.

"There was this realization that we didn't have a single coalition of graduate student governments," Taele said. "We realized it would be easier if we advocated together."

This new partnership, uniting the two largest

universities in Texas, will focus on quality of life for students and affordability, Sundaram said. She said the most pressing issue is funding, as recent discussion in the legislature has foreshadowed budget cuts at Texas universities.

Because graduate students are often on research tracks and rely on studies for experience and credit, Sundaram said research support is a priority for the coalition.

"Graduate students are kind of at the center of receiving and accessing funds and grants for research," Sundaram said. "It's a universal concern that graduate students share, and we wanted this coalition to focus on this core issue."

Taele said this resolution will act as a starting block for a larger coalition of Texas universities. Among other universities, the University of North Texas may soon join the partnership. However, Taele said the larger coalition is still in the preliminary stage.

"I think the main focus of this coalition is to have that exchange of ideas among University representatives and also to provide support for the amazing work that legislative organizations are doing," Sundaram said.

Sundaram will join graduate students from A&M and other Texas universities with the Student Advocates for Graduate Education on a trek to Washington D.C. to campaign for national legislative support this Saturday.

DRIVING BAN

continues from page 1

KXAN reported last month.

Even so, APD began amping up their enforcement efforts last month, conducting weekly hands-free initiatives by utilizing officers on motorcycles, bicycles and Capital Metro buses.

"The initial response from the majority of the public was to adjust their behavior," Barger said in an email.

The lack of a statewide ban creates confusion for drivers traveling in and out of local hands-free areas, Barger said. The UT Police Department, for example, has no means to enforce the city ordinance because it is a state agency. However, UTPD Lt. Robert Stock said officers still see distracted driving occurring on and around campus.

"We see (distracted driving) all the time," Stock said. "Some are students, staff or faculty ... or just people passing through the area. It's a large mix."

Despite the bill's opponents arguing that hands-free laws do not necessarily reduce crash rates and \$200 fines will not be enough to deter violators, supporters of the bill have cited a number of crash-related statistics.

In 2015, 476 people were killed in crashes in Texas as a result of distracted driving and in Travis County, 4,935 crashes were the result of distracted driving, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

On average, an individual's eyes are off the road for 5 seconds while

texting — at 55 miles per hour, that's enough time to cover the length of a football field blindfolded, according to Distraction.gov. Additionally, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reported that it takes drivers a total of 27 seconds to fully re-engage in the act of driving after texting.

"In an urban area, there are significantly more dangers in a short distance," Barger said in an email. "Two to three seconds at 65 miles per hour without watching where you are going can land a driver in a ditch or wrapped around a tree."



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LECTURE

Stroud explores complexities of revenge porn, obscenity laws

By Lisa Nhan
@nhanbread24

The nonconsensual sharing of private nude images, from leaked photos of celebrities to the Anthony Weiner sexting scandals, has sparked debate on the media ethics of dealing with revenge porn.

Scott Stroud, Communication studies associate professor, spoke on ethical issues surrounding revenge porn at a lecture Tuesday, defining it as “the online posting of identifiable, undesirable or undesired, nude pictures without the consent of the subject of these photos.”

Stroud said a common misconception of revenge porn is that it is a simple topic.

“It’s evil,” Stroud said. “It’s a new way we can be awful to each other ... but there’s complexity to this. We don’t do anyone any favors by simplifying complex phenomena like this.”

Stroud said there has been an increase in legislation about revenge porn, but much of it fails to understand the nature of the internet.

“This is what gets me about internet laws,” Stroud said. “They’re made by eighty-year-old dudes who probably have AOL accounts ... and don’t see how complex these issues can be.”



Gabby Lanza | Daily Texan Staff

Scott Stroud, a communication studies associate professor, speaks of the evils of revenge porn. He claimed that the legislation combating the sharing of private nude photos has not caught up to the complexities of the internet.

Stroud said legislation on revenge porn can be difficult to navigate, because of different types and ways to share. Variables such as source, consent status, poster intent and identifying content can have different implications.

The use of revenge porn goes beyond sharing online, Stroud said. One artist, XVALA, planned to use leaked nude photos of celebrities in an exhibit to show how these leaked nudes are leading to a loss in privacy.

“Revenge porn becomes part of some of these artists’ maybe misguided attempts to criticize the state of society,” Stroud said. “We have to figure out, ‘Do we want to keep artists from using these photos as social commentary?’”

Public relations junior Vanessa Osorio said she sees revenge porn as a newer issue targeting younger generations due to the growth of the internet.

“You can’t control what’s out there,” Osorio said. “Even though we’ve grown up with the Internet, we are still unaware of the dangers and the lengths of the consequences that our actions and posts can have.”

Exercise science sophomore Jose Garcia said the talk made him reflect on the increasing use and spread of revenge porn.

“I’ve known that it’s been going on around us ... but (the talk) made me think of the severity of it,” Garcia said. “It’s an upcoming issue that we need to be more aware of.”

ICE

continues from page 1

director and Hernandez was contentious. Austin said the friction between the two is why ICE told him and the other judge about the raids ahead of time.

Austin questioned ICE agent Laron Byrant during the hearing and asked him if there will be future targeted raids on the city of Austin.

“As far as I know, this incident was an isolated incident,” Byrant said. “This wasn’t the norm, this is not something that’s going to become pattern or practice.”

Bryant also said he was not aware of any meeting between Hernandez and the field director. ICE issued a statement on Monday in response to Austin’s announcement.

“For operational security reasons, ICE does not discuss

future operations,” ICE wrote. “However, ICE conducts daily operations nationwide targeting and arresting criminal aliens and other individuals who are in violation of our nation’s immigration laws.”

According to the Statesman, the Austin raids resulted in 51 arrests. Twenty-eight of those arrested had not committed previous crimes but were suspected of being undocumented. ICE officials released a

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SG proposes general admission seating for home football games

By Kayla Meyertons
@kemeyertons

To address low student turnout, Student Government proposed Assembly Resolution 21 to implement unassigned seating in Big Ticket student sections at UT football games in the fall.

AR 21 was sent to the colleges Thursday night proposing to eliminate the row and seat number from the Big Ticket and to assign students based on section and seniority. Students who show up earlier to the game will be rewarded in their section by being closer to the field.

Mechanical engineering junior Matt Offill, resolution co-author and SG Cockrell School of Engineering representative, said he and aerospace engineering junior Zack Wagner came up with the idea last football season.

“Right now in the stadium we have reserved seating style,” Offill said. “(The resolution is) the same exact way the Big Ticket is already set up. You would be assigned a section, (and) you would for sure have a seat inside the stadium. It just would be depending on how early you got there.”

The resolution was made in

response to a decline in student attendance at home football games from 2010-2015 and recent concern from Texas Athletic Administrators that few students follow the “come early, stay late,” policy.

Wagner, co-author of AR 21, said he was inspired last fall when he attended a University of California, Los Angeles football game with unassigned seating and saw a completely different crowd atmosphere.

“I’ve never seen students in an effort to get to the game as quickly as they were,” Wagner said. “(Unassigned seating is) an effort to alleviate the tension, to encourage a more enthusiastic environment, (to) reward passionate fans and to incentivize students to get there earlier.”

Currently seven of the 10 Big 12 schools have some form of unassigned seating in their student sections, including Texas Tech University, Texas Christian University, Kansas State University and West Virginia University.

External Financial Director Jonathan Dror said seating based on seniority would remain the same, with upperclassmen being seated in sections closer to the fifty-yard line. Dror said he thinks the

resolution would help to bolster the Eyes to Eyes initiative, started by SG to incentivize students to arrive at Darrell K. Memorial Stadium early enough to sing the “Eyes of Texas” before kickoff and late enough to sing it at the end of the game.

“This is a very tangible aspect to Eyes to Eyes,” Dror said. “We’ve been creating a lot of buzz, (and) this is a very big step to tangibly increase students to get there early and stay until the end.”

Offill said the Texas Athletic Department and the Office of Student Affairs are on board with the resolution.

“(We’re waiting to see) whether or not the existing ticket system can accommodate this change in time for the next football season,” Offill said. “It could be this season or the next one after.”

According to the resolution, a recent survey sent to the student body showed 90 percent of the surveyed students in support of the change to unassigned seating, after 200 votes. The survey is in the process of being sent via email to every student.

The resolution was sent to the Student Affairs Committee for consideration.



Allissa Jae Lazo-Kim
Daily Texan Staff

STATE

Hinojosa says Texas lege should improve priorities

By Albert Zhao
@_albertzhao

State Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, said as a Catholic, she is aware how powerful shame can be in affecting change, and the Texas Legislature deserves some for failing to prioritize issues such as education funding.

Hinojosa discussed her experience as a new representative in the Texas Legislature on Tuesday and criticized disproportionate attention on bills that waste the Legislature’s time during an event hosted by the Texas Political Union, a non-partisan student organization.

“We have a Republican Party who is pandering to a small part of its Republican base, and that’s why our whole state is focused on this non-issue issue (of the transgender bathroom bill),” Hinojosa said. “It’s a discriminatory issue.”

Hinojosa, however, said when she first arrived to the Legislature, she was surprised by how well she got along with most Republicans, finding points of agreement on issues such as education funding.

“We all get along so well,” Hinojosa said. “There is a lot of common ground. Just even at orientation, everybody seems to agree that we should be spending most of



Mary Pistorius | Daily Texan Staff

State Representative Gina Hinojosa holds a discussion with members of UT’s Texas Political Union. She answers questions regarding her win this past year, as well as her future in office.

our money on public education, our public schools.”

Hinojosa said the current funding system for education is archaic, with an education index over 30 years old resulting in disproportionately high property taxes for Austin.

Hinojosa also discussed current campus carry laws that she criticized last year. This legislative session, she supports HB 391, which provides an option to opt-out of the campus carry policy for all Texas universities.

Government junior Morgan Peavy said he disagreed with Hinojosa’s support of HB 391 because it allows publicly funded institutions to avoid any disagreeable laws.

“(HB 391) stems to reason that any entity, no matter if it receives state funds or not, can just opt out of any state law or national law whenever it feels like it, even if it’s in the Constitution,” Peavy said. “It’s a serious problem.”

Alex Walheim, government sophomore and event host, said he agreed with Hinojosa’s assessment that the Texas Legislature has its priorities mixed up and said some of its issues “take an extreme, ideological stance,” such as permitless gun carry.

“I think (permitless carry) is a terrible idea,” Walheim said. “It’s so easy for people to access guns. What I think is people should have a more rigorous process to get them.”

statement in February saying the arrests are routine.

Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County District Attorney, met with ICE regional field office director Dan Bible in February, who told her ICE was not targeting Austin, according to the Statesman.

According to the Statesman, Hernandez declined to comment because she was not involved with the judges or ICE agents. The Daily

Texan reported on Mar. 10 that 35 detainer requests to detain inmates after being released from Travis County jail were declined.

Bob Libal, director of immigrants rights advocacy group Grassroots Leadership, said ICE cannot be trusted given Monday’s announcement.

“It’s completely outrageous and appalling that ICE is choosing to terrorize the immigrant community in retaliation

for a perfectly legal policy,” Libal said. “They are lying to local officials and to the press about what their activities are.”

State Rep. Dawn Buckingham, R-Lakeway, told KXAN in an article dated Feb. 13 that the raids in February are to protect the community.

“We want the criminals off of our streets,” Buckingham said. “We’ve seen a revolving door and so, this is truly about the safety of our community.”

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COLUMN

Science must receive bipartisan support, funding

By Jori Kandra

Daily Texan Columnist

Science is not a partisan issue. Yet polarized views of science have emerged that seemingly back certain legislative agendas. Scientists, at one time, revered for their expertise and sought out for advice on policy, have been exploited to advance legislative agendas across the aisle.

During the Reagan presidency, Reagan initially refused to appoint a presidential science advisor, and used conservative science research to back notions such as creationism and fight industrial regulations such as healthy and safety requirements. While Rep. Newt Gingrich served as the Speaker of the House, he saw several different forms of scientific abuse, including over regulation of federal science agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and defunding the Office of Technology Assessment, a bipartisan congressional body that objectively assessed scientific research and funding. During the Bush Administration, climate change received a lot of political clout and was pushed back by the president himself. Now, the conservative Trump administration has sought to spread doubt regarding important issues such as basic research and climate change.

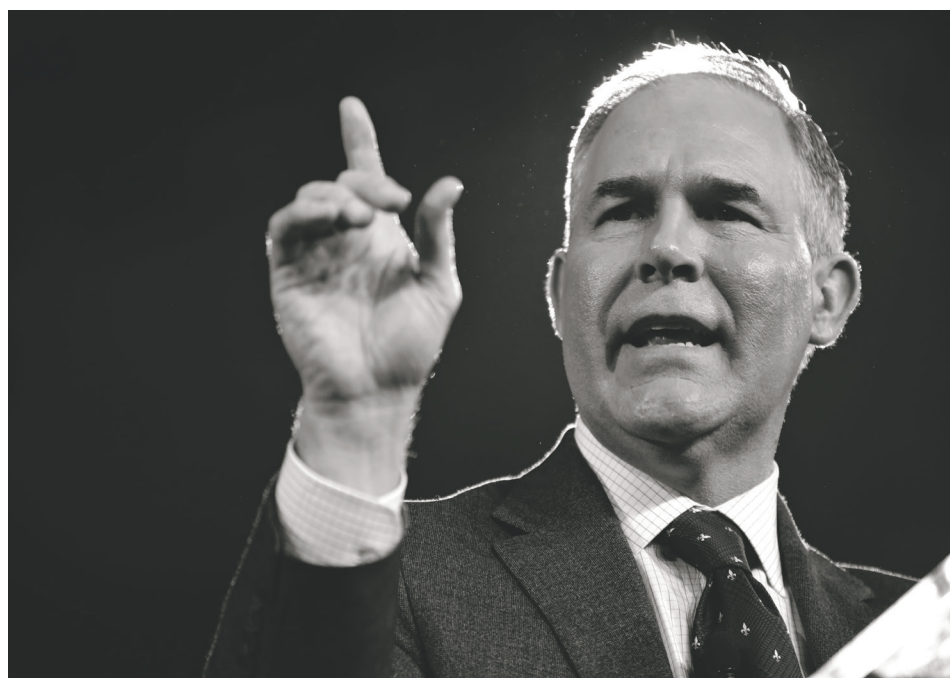
Perhaps the best example of science politicization is the recent nomination and confirmation of Scott Pruitt, former Oklahoma governor, to head the EPA. One of the EPAs biggest goals is to combat climate change, climate patterns that have been linked with increased carbon dioxide emissions from

motor vehicles that use gasoline. The EPA has sought to regulate oil companies and cap carbon dioxide emissions to effectively reduce climate change. However, there has been extreme opposition from the Trump administration, including cuts in the budget for climate research and deregulating oil companies. Moreover, Pruitt, will likely aid and abet his mission.

Pruitt had maintained close ties to big oil industries such as Devon Energy during his time as governor, which was only revealed after his confirmation. Democrats sought to delay the vote, but the Republican-controlled Senate fought the delay, and the confirmation vote was kept as originally planned.

The push by Republican senators to confirm Pruitt before releasing potentially incriminating emails brings to question the Republican motive behind it. As head of the EPA, Pruitt's responsibilities include protecting human health and the environment. But Pruitt's close business ties with big oil companies make him a questionably unethical appointment. Furthermore, Trump's potential science advisor, William Happer, has made public statements saying that carbon dioxide is good for the earth and that "climate so-called science is really more of a cult."

Interestingly, both Happer and Pruitt are climate change skeptics. However, climate change skeptics are a minority of scientific researchers. About 97 percent of scientists believe that climate change exists and is due to human activity. This incorrect notion that climate change is a myth, as Trump has previously stated,



Courtesy of Gage Skidmore

EPA chief Scott Pruitt speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference on February 23. Pruitt's denial of anthropogenic climate change leaves him ill-equipped for the job.

or that it is healthy for the environment directly defies contradicts evidence that people can see with their own eyes, such as rising sea levels.

The Trump administration has continued the pattern for science abuse and politicization, even more publicly than any other conservative president. Trump's new appointment and rumored appointment for science advisor, shows his refusal to listen to expert perspectives and sound science. Though science is built off of facts

and peer-reviewed research, politicians are increasingly controlling the direction of science research and affecting which research is being communicated to the American people. As conservative administrations are increasingly steering scientific research, it is imperative that science remain bipartisan in its nature. However without funding and without a voice, who will scientists turn to?

Kandra is a chemistry and economics sophomore from San Antonio.

COLUMN

Career politicians bring greater threat than Bannon

By Cuillin Chastain-Howley

Daily Texan Columnist
@notcuillin

Steve Bannon's appointment as Donald Trump's campaign manager in August shocked the world. Bannon headed up Breitbart, a news site that consistently expresses anti-black and anti-woman views, and is on record endorsing white nationalist views. Giving him a platform as influential as campaign manager was unthinkable, even for Trump, and his place in the White House elicited even more concern. However, Bannon's brief tenure as a White House advisor has shown how unprepared and incompetent he is in the role, and does not at all justify the Machiavellian character that Trump's opposition has built him up to be.

Before becoming a vital member of the Trump team, Bannon was just a guy who ran a blog. Breitbart, although popularized by the rise of the alt-right, relied less on hard-hitting journalism to make a mark than outlandish, provocative headlines designed to get attention. Breitbart's most reprehensible articles had titles like "Trans 49 Xs Higher HIV Rate" and "Birth Control Makes Women Unattractive and Crazy." Exploiting people's outrage to get attention is an old and tired strategy, and doesn't mean that Bannon is a political genius that is pulling all the strings.

In fact, the most significant piece of legislation released under the Trump administration

that clearly has Bannon's fingerprints on it, the attempted Muslim ban, was wildly incompetent and ineffectual. It was an outrageous proposition, but it was outrageous in the way that Breitbart's headlines were, which doesn't work with the U.S. court system. The ban was repealed almost instantly, and when it was re-instituted a few weeks later, it was struck down again. In Judge Derrick Watson's decision, he cited previous statements by Trump's inner circle to prove that the ban "was issued with a purpose to disfavor a particular religion." Not that Machiavellian, no?

It's hard to find a Bannon-linked proposal that doesn't expose his complete lack of experience in politics. The executive order that put Bannon on the National Security Council was signed by Trump without knowledge of its contents, and Trump became angry when the media made him aware of the order he signed. Either Bannon didn't know that he was placing himself on the NSC, or he thought he could sneak on the Council and demote the Joint Chiefs without anyone noticing or objecting, neither of which support the conniving, double-dealing image of Bannon.

Hyping up Bannon as this evil genius distracts from the harmful things that other members of the government are actually doing. Paul Ryan's American Health Care Act, which promises to raise premiums and leave millions without insurance, is the most impactful and harmful piece of legislation introduced since Trump took office, and it was



Courtesy of Gage Skidmore

Chief White House advisor Steve Bannon, left, looks on as Chief of Staff Reince Priebus speaks at the 2017 Conservative Political Action Conference on February 25. Bannon referred to immigration as a threat to America's culture and reason for being during the event.

crafted entirely by career politicians. Sure, it may be tempting to hype up Bannon, the shadowy white nationalist, but more familiar political characters are in a much better position to craft policy that will cause tangible pain to millions of people.

None of this means that Bannon isn't dangerous — he's a government employee that has endorsed white nationalism and is

reported to be an anti-Semite, and his mere presence implies government tolerance of those ideas. But the danger of Bannon is like the danger of a toddler grasping a gun, and devoting too much of a focus on his inability to use his frightening influence takes the spotlight off competent threats.

Chastain-Howley is a rhetoric and writing junior from Dallas.

COLUMN

'Positive character traits' bill proves unnecessary

By Emma Berdanier

Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@eberdanier

House Bill 729 was introduced by Rep. Dwayne Bohac, R-Houston, in the Texas House, and if passed could incorporate teaching positive character traits, such as honesty, kindness, and school pride, into the state curriculum. However, teaching these traits is already a requirement under the Texas Education Code, and adding it into the curriculum would be both a waste of time and money.

According to the Texas Education Code, school districts must already implement a character education program focused on the teaching of positive character traits, determined by a committee of teachers, parents and community leaders from the district. The code applies to schools that are supported in part or in whole by state tax funds, and thus applies to the entirety of the public school

system that this bill targets.

The current bill is merely a repetition of this program. The character traits it would introduce to the state curriculum would be similar to those enforced by the code, and would be derived from a committee of a similar makeup.

Yet, the Texas Education Agency and the Legislative Budget Board estimate it would cost school districts \$25 million dollars in the first year and \$4 million dollars the following year to train teachers and fully implement the program — a cost that would simply reinforce an already existing program. Still, teacher groups have told lawmakers that they're in support of the bill. It's hard to oppose instruction in support of enforcing positive character traits, no matter how unnecessary.

Instead of reinforcing preexisting educational standards, the Texas Legislature should be striving to improve upon those standards and introduce new ones. The focus should be areas that Texas is failing

in, areas that actually need the attention of the legislature. One such area is sex education. With a reported 60 percent of public schools teaching abstinence only sex education and 25 percent teaching none at all, a bill adding sex education standards to the state curriculum would be a necessary step forward. Another area is special education. Only 8.5 percent of students in Texas receive special education, far below the national average of 13 percent. This clearly qualifies for a bill to restructure the education standards.

Failures in proper sex education is why Texas ranked fifth highest in the nation in teen pregnancy rates in 2015. A lack of special education is leaving an estimated 250,000 children without the services they need. Reinforcing the teaching of positive character traits in the curriculum might increase attendance and raise graduation rates, but those rates are already at 89 percent for 2014-15 public high schools in Texas,

“
Instead of reinforcing preexisting educational standards, the Texas Legislature should be striving to improve upon those standards and introduce new ones.

putting us fourth in the nation and first for low-income students.

Forcing districts to waste millions of dollars on adapting their curriculum to something they are already teaching at schools is a gross misuse of the Texas Legislature's time. Instead, they should focus on solving actual problems within public schools and using their limited time on something of actual importance.

Berdanier is a philosophy junior from Boulder, Colorado.

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TENNIS

Texas pummels UT-Arlington in Austin

By Justin Martinez
@JustJustin956

Texas is no stranger to close matches, but no come-backs were necessary Tuesday at Caswell Tennis Center in the Longhorn's 7-0 rout of UT-Arlington.

The No. 6 Longhorns (17-4) exuded confidence from the moment they stepped onto the court, looking to keep their momentum going after wins against No. 3 Ohio State and No. 21 Columbia last week.

Texas returned to its winning ways in doubles play after dropping the doubles point in its past two matches. The Longhorns enforced their will from the start, winning the first two matches 6-1 and 6-3 to take a 1-0 lead.

"We really made a point of emphasis on our doubles matches," assistant head coach Bruce Berque said. "That's where we lose focus sometimes, so I think we improved today. We still have to get better though."

But the burnt orange powerhouse didn't stop there. The Longhorns took full control of the match with a clean sweep in the first set, looking hungrier than their opponent in every facet of the game.

"You can really play loose when you're able to look to your left and right and see your teammates winning that first set," senior George



Noel Mahouch | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman Yuya Ito hits the ball during a match. Ito delivered the game-winning point in a singles match Tuesday night.

Goldhoff said. "There isn't as much pressure and you can just go through your shots."

Sophomore Harrison Scott extended the lead to 2-0 with a 6-0, 6-4 demolition of UT-Arlington's Mario Muniesa. Freshman Christian Sigsgaard brought the crowd at Caswell to its feet after cruising past Jhonathan Gonzalez for a 6-4, 6-3 win.

The cheers intensified when freshman Yuya Ito delivered the game-winning point, defeating Guanarteme Nuez 6-2, 6-4. The victory gave Ito his fifth singles win in the past six matches, including a stunning defeat of the No. 4 player in the country out of Ohio State, Hugo Di Feo.

The two teams played out the remaining three games, and Texas didn't let up. The Longhorns instead hit the gas to blaze past the Mavericks

and win all three matches.

Sophomore Leonardo Telles punctuated the win in the final game of the night with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over UT-Arlington's Mauricio Del Rio. The 7-0 onslaught extended Texas' win streak to four.

It's gut-check time for the Longhorns now as they enter conference play with three straight top-15 matches up next. The grueling stretch begins with a road match against No. 13 Oklahoma, followed by another test on the road against No. 7 Oklahoma State.

"Our guys want to compete for a Big-12 championship," Berque said. "We know they're capable, but we'll have to push each other to improve over the next ten days so we can be up for the challenge against these good teams."

SWIMMING AND DIVING

Texas aims to capture record 13th title

By Keshav Prathivadi
@kpthefirst

March Madness is well underway. But it's not taking place solely on the hardwood.

Starting Wednesday in Indianapolis, competition continues in the water as the No. 2 Texas Longhorns look to complete the trifecta and claim their third consecutive NCAA Championship.

This year's group sends 15 swimmers and three divers to the championship meet, including multiple All-Americans, Olympians, school and national record holders.

And with 12 of the 19 members of the 2016 team making the trip again, the championship pedigree is well established.

So are the memories of last year's triumph.

"Just that entire meet for the whole experience was incredible," sophomore Townley Haas said. "Everyone swam fast, and everyone had fun ... I got to experience winning with (Coach) Eddie (Reese) and the team, and it was awesome."

Haas, along with fellow Olympians junior Joseph Schooling and seniors Jack Conger and Clark Smith, captured national titles last year and will participate in the upcoming relays.

Senior Will Licon, owner of the national record in the 200-yard backstroke, will look to defend his individual titles in the 200-yard individual



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Sophomore swimmer Townley Haas is among the decorated Longhorns to compete in the NCAA Championship meet.

medley and backstroke.

Coming off of a record-setting performance in the Big 12 Championships last month, Schooling sets out to defend his individual titles in the 100 and 200-yard butterfly — events he is highly touted in.

Texas' three divers, senior Mark Anderson and freshmen Grayson Campbell and Jacob Cornish, earned invitations to Indianapolis as they vie for the Longhorns' 20th individual diving title.

Even with the impressive list of accomplishments by this Texas squad, it's a meticulous step-by-step process for improvement under head coach Eddie Reese.

"Very simply, swimming faster is having an efficient stroke and moving your hand speed a little bit faster without losing efficiency," Reese said. "And the training process for

that starts in September, goes till now, and then it goes again in the summer."

Reese, the only coach to win titles in four separate decades, has finished second or better eight times in the last 10 years.

No other swimming program boasts as many team titles and top-two finishes as Texas, but the team is always hungry for more.

Should the Longhorns manage to win a 13th championship, they will become the most decorated swimming program in the country — breaking the current tie of 12 championships with Michigan.

"We work all year to go to the NAAs and compete with everybody there," Reese said.

The Longhorns' quest for additional hardware begins Wednesday in Indianapolis.

BASEBALL

continues from page 6
the ball into right center field for his fourth hit of the match. The Bobcats won 11-10 and sent their fans home with a fairy-tale ending to a thrilling rivalry.

Walking into the clubhouse empty-handed, the Longhorns now fall to 13-10 on the season. They will return home looking to erase a four-game skid as they host UT Rio Grande Valley Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

continues from page 6

Clark said. "Obviously we've got one more game before we head into conference, but I think our prerequisites of heading into conference have been checked off."

Clark's players echoed her assessment. Senior infielder Kelli Hanzel likes where the team is headed.

"I think it's really exciting," Hanzel said. "You know right now we have a

really big and good bullpen, our offense looks really good, and I think just being a senior is exciting because this is our last go round so you want to leave it all out there."

While the Longhorns have played the fifth-toughest schedule in the nation and possess 12 victories over teams ranked in the RPI Top 100, the Big 12 contains a host of difficult opponents as well. With teams such as the reigning national champions, the Oklahoma

Sooners, on deck, Hanzel and her teammates will have to play at their best to compete for a conference title.

"I think our conference as a whole is pretty challenging," Hanzel said. "Knowing that they're in our conference is like a test early to see how we match up, and it's all about how we play our game and what we bring to the table and make adjustments. So it's pretty exciting to have such a challenging conference."

GOLF

continues from page 6

No. 17 Bubba Watson, No. 34 Thomas Pieters and No. 43 Scott Piercy.

The WGC event has frequently moved around in recent history. From 2009-2014, it was hosted at The Golf Club at Dove Mountain in Marana, Arizona. It traveled to San Francisco at TPC Harding Park for 2015 before moving to Austin last year.

But players in the field lauded Austin, and said they were happy to be back for the second straight year. Spieth called it his "second home" and added that it was probably his "favorite city in the world."

"It's an awesome city," said Rory McIlroy, currently ranked No. 2 in the world. "Personally for me it was one of the most enjoyable weeks of the year."

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BASEBALL

Bobcats spoil Longhorns' night with walk-off victory

By Vanessa Le
@vanessale

Senior Kacy Clemens taunted a rowdy Texas State crowd by hushing them with an index finger over his mouth as he trotted into the visitor's dugout at the end of the fourth inning. The first baseman had just completed a double play to bail his team out of trouble in front of a record-setting 3,017 Bobcat Ballpark attendance Tuesday night. Nevertheless, the sea of roaring Bobcat fans had reason to be hostile — their team had

never won a game against Texas in San Marcos. But history was rewritten in dramatic fashion as the final Texas State baserunner crossed home plate to complete a Bobcat walk-off win at 11-10. Both teams lit up the scoreboard with 33 total hits collected in the match. Junior Travis Jones led the Longhorn offense, going 3-for-5 with a homerun and being just a triple shy of the cycle. As a San Marcos native, freshman shortstop David Hamilton also added fuel to the rivalry by collecting two hits and a pair of stolen bases.

The electric crowd evoked adrenaline within the baserunners as both sides found enough speed to total six stolen bases in the game. After allowing three stolen bases in previous innings, sophomore pitcher Nick Kennedy threw over to first base in an attempt to keep Texas State's Jacob Almendarez from stealing second in the fifth inning. However, Kennedy's ball flew past Clemens and rolled far into the outfield foul area. Almendarez's innocent single turned into a game-tying run as he sped all the way home from

first base to make it 3-3. During the seventh inning, Almendarez found his way to first base once again. He slowly inched his way off the bag in his quest to steal second base. But sophomore reliever Chase Shugart showed his own kind of stealth as he flipped the ball to Clemens at first. The Longhorns' precise pickoff play sent Almendarez back to the dugout in a flash. The Longhorns found some breathing room after sophomore designated hitter Kody Clemens crushed a solo homer to break the tie at 6-5

during the seventh inning. Texas tagged on three more runs during the next inning to widen the lead to 9-5. The momentum shifted between the teams throughout the match. The Longhorns found multiple ways to score go-ahead runs, but the Bobcats were always right behind them to tie up the game on four different occasions. But the last player to bring in a run wore a maroon jersey. Texas State's Ryan Newman scored the game-winning run in the 10th inning after Luke Sherley sent

BASEBALL page 5

SOFTBALL

Depth powers Texas before Big 12 play

By Wills Layton
@willsdebeast

Sandwiched between a California road trip and a date with the Cowgirls of Oklahoma State, Texas takes on McNeese State in a mid-week showdown in Austin on Wednesday. After playing a total of six road games in the past week, the team will host the Cowgirls of McNeese State. While the number of games has been tiring, head coach Connie Clark sees the positives that a packed schedule can bring.

"It's tough, it's challenging, but that's what teams do this time of year," Clark said. "We can schedule 56 games, and we can't even find a slot for 56 games in our schedule (so) we maxed out at 54. It's tough to get them scheduled in, but it's also a good way to utilize your roster." McNeese State boasts a record of 19-10, with an unblemished 6-0 record in the Southland Conference. In addition, the Cowgirl lineup

features the Southland Conference hitter of the week, junior Erika Piancastelli. Despite the midweek matchup against a quality opponent, Clark values the opportunity to test the roster. "I like where we're at being early," Clark said. "I think that there are more good take-aways than things that I don't like, but it's kind of nice that we have such a short week we can turn it around quick, and you get a couple days of practice and get to throw them

right back into the fire." This game serves as the final opportunity to display what the team is capable of before conference play next weekend. Clark said she likes the depth the team brings to the table and is pleased with the team's performance heading into conference. "I think when you ask our team what a couple of our strengths are, everybody always talks about the depth,"

SOFTBALL page 5



Senior infielder Kelli Hanzel runs the bases at Red and Charlene McCombs Field. Hanzel has registered 11 runs in 2017.

PGA

Golf's greatest gather in Austin for match play

By Zephyr Melton
@Zmelton13

The mantra "Keep Austin Weird" often defines the city, and with the World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play in town this week, the saying applies. The newest PGA Tour stop in Texas comes to town this week as the top 64 players in the world converge on Austin Country Club. But the match play format is a bit of an oddity. The event is the only regular season PGA Tour or European Tour event that uses the match play format. And it definitely affects how players approach the week. "You're only playing against one other guy," said Jordan Spieth, a two-time major winner and former Texas Longhorn. "Play off of him. Take chances when you need to, but back off

where you need to." The players are split into 16 four-player pods for the group play stage, with each player competing in three matches. These groups were revealed Monday at Hotel Van Zandt in downtown Austin. The top player in each group then advances to a single elimination format for the weekend. Spieth enters the event ranked No. 6 in the Official World Golf Rankings. He is joined in Group 5 by No. 36 Ryan Moore, No. 41 Yuta Ikeda and No. 60 Hideto Tanihara. "I've got a tough group," Spieth said. "It's going to be difficult just getting out of the group stage this year." The only other former Longhorn in the field is Jhonattan Vegas. Vegas, ranked No. 61, was assigned to Group 13 with

GOLF page 5

SIDELINE

NBA

	SPURS
	TIMBERWOLVES
	WARRIORS
	MAVERICKS

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Jarrett Allen plans to enter NBA Draft

Freshman power forward Jarrett Allen will enter the NBA draft but will not hire an agent, according to a report from CBS Sports. Without an agent, Allen keeps his collegiate eligibility intact and will still have the option to return to Texas next year. According to the Austin American-Statesman, a Texas spokesman could not confirm the report. Allen is expected to participate in the NBA's scouting combine on May 9 where he will gauge his professional prospects. The 6-foot-11-inch forward has until June 12 to withdraw his name from draft consideration if he decides to return to the Longhorns. Allen averaged 13.4 points and 8.4 rebounds per game in his first year with Texas. The freshman was named to the All-Big 12 Third Team and was a unanimous selection for the conference's All-Newcomer team. —Shane Lewis

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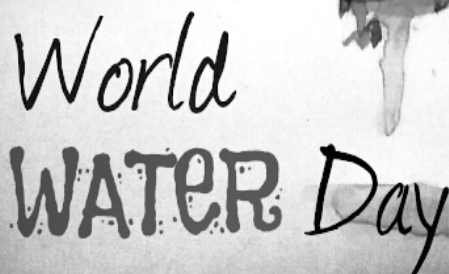
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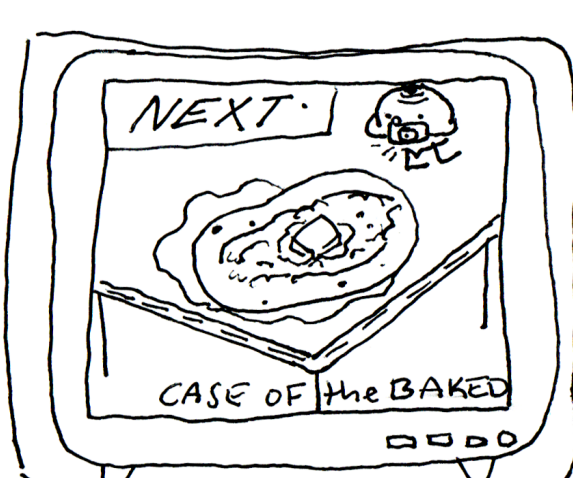
A black and white illustration of a woman with a ponytail, smiling and holding a potted plant. She has several small heart symbols floating around her head and on her chest. The text "I'M BACK HOME MY LOVES!" is written to the left.

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Geo Casillas

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66 "Cinco"

DOWN

- 1 Decidedly non-PC types?
- 2 Comeback in a cave
- 3 Burr/Hamilton showdown
- 4 Abbr. on some sale goods
- 5 Completely covers
- 6 Dream
- 7 "Bali ____"
- 8 Newspaper section
- 9 Single, say
- 10 Like "Pocahontas" or "Mulan"
- 11 Like a kid in a candy store
- 12 Starkist product
- 13 Something that's frequently trimmed

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PUZZLE BY JESSE EISENBERG AND PATRICK BLINDAUER

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| 32 Check alternative | 42 Worker whose name is, appropriately, an anagram of NOTES | 51 Philip who said "goodbye" to Columbus |
| 33 Gallic girlfriend | 43 Jeans style | 52 ___ Bell |
| 37 "___ Joey" (Rodgers and Hart musical) | 45 Champion of evolution | 54 Szczecin resident |
| 38 Word files, briefly | 46 Makes a connection | 55 Weight classification |
| 40 Palm : hand :: ___ : foot | 49 Grammy category | 56 "___ Karenina" |
| 41 Cowboys, but not Indians | 50 New Balance competitor | 59 Lacking refinement |
| | | 60 Capital of Colombia? |

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FOOD

Indian-Mexican cuisine spices up Austin

By Jose Gonzalez
@Jose_thewriter

Nasha's Indian-Mexican is two scientists' long-term experiment with cultural food fusion that has resulted in one of Austin's most unique food spots.

In 2014, husband and wife duo Mahesh and Anusuih Shinde opened Nasha, their personal Tex-Mex spin on the Indian cuisine they know and love.

"I studied to be a chemist, so I like to mix things up even in the kitchen," Anusuih Shinde said.

Anusuih Shinde said most of the dishes they came up with began in their own home. They often experimented with adding Mexican twists to original recipes from their sister restaurant, New India.

"Mexican and Indian spices just blend so well together," Anusuih Shinde said. "It just felt natural when cooking."

Alina Cardenas, UT alumna and head manager at Nasha, has worked for the Shinde family for five years. She began as a server and worked her way up.

"I've grown a lot, and I learned a lot about business because I've been here at Nasha since day one," Cardenas said. "It's kinda awesome to see how it's grown and how it's now becoming even

more successful."

Cardenas said she has visited the Shinde household and watched the couple experiment with various spices and dishes. Some of the curries they make contain as many as 13 spices. Some drinks even include a mix of jalapeño seasoning and curry leaves.

"(The owners) had a curry leaf plant at their house," Cardenas said. "We made margaritas and then we took some of the curry leaves (and) started making curry leaf margaritas. It's one of the most popular drinks here."

Apart from the distinct menu, Cardenas said Nasha's location in East Austin adds a funky, late-night vibe unique to Austin's always-evolving restaurant scene.

"Nowadays we have restaurants that are really new, like tapas," Cardenas said. "They have really small portions — that's how they're executed — and are very pricey."

By adding Tex-Mex influences to traditional Indian recipes, Anusuih Shinde said they hope to appeal to a younger audience.

"I know my culture," Anusuih Shinde said. "The plan was bringing my culture to the younger generation with something they are familiar with."

UT alumnus Harshil Modi's



Noel Malhouch | Daily Texan Staff

Alina Cardenas is manager at Nasha's Indian-Mexican which serves dishes such as roti and chana masala are served. Nasha's provides a unique, cultural spin to cuisine.

family hails from Gujarat, India and said he often frequents Nasha for a traditional meal and appreciates the menu's authenticity.

"They have roti — it's like a tortilla," Modi said. "They actually have that. A lot of Indian restaurants nowadays skimp out on that. That's like one of the traditional things we eat."

Modi knows a lot about the curry dishes at Nasha, including what type of base the sauce is made with. There was one dish in particular that stood out for him — the coconut curry.

"That one felt like somebody from India made that," Modi said. "It was really good, and it felt like really authentic."

It just so happens Anusuih

Shinde's favorite food served at Nasha is the coconut curry, a dish she only had on special occasions while growing up in Goa, India.

"Me and my family would travel to rural areas on the border of Goa, or to Bombay, just to eat dishes like that," Anusuih Shinde said.

Anusuih Shinde has fond memories of learning to cook as a child and most of her recipes came from her mother. Today, she wants to pass on that knowledge and love of food to Austin's booming youth culture.

"That's why it's important what we do," Anusuih said. "We want to give the young people a fun place, but we also want to nourish their minds."

FOOD REVIEW | LIMA CRIOLLA

Lima Criolla offers authentic Peruvian food

By Stephen Acevedo
@thedailytexan

When Peru native Susana Vivanco took up residence in Austin 10 years ago, she decided the best way to keep her country's culture alive in her new home was through cooking. Her latest restaurant, Lima Criolla, does exactly that.

"When I started this business, it was because I wanted to promote my culture," Vivanco said. "That has always been my passion."

Lima Criolla is completely family-run and boasts an extensive collection of authentic Peruvian dishes that Vivanco grew up cooking and eating in her hometown of Lima.

"I learned to cook from my grandma," Vivanco said. "In my restaurant, all the cooking is like my grandma's home recipes. It's not a commercial thing. Everything in the restaurant is exactly like eating at home."

Vivanco said a big part of staying true to the culinary history of Peru is going out of her way to find all of the original ingredients used in the dishes she serves.

"I try to keep the quality good by using only the original ingredients in each dish," Vivanco said. "It's hard to find a lot of these original

ingredients, but I don't want to take shortcuts."

For Vivanco, managing Lima Criolla is more than just running a successful business. It's about spreading love and appreciation for the country of Peru as a whole.

"I love Peru and it makes me so happy when people visit and tell me how good their experience was," Vicano said.

Vivanco is also using her business to directly help Peruvian citizens who have recently been affected by a series of devastating floods. In order to provide further assistance, Vivanco is currently organizing a fundraiser with her friends and associates to send whatever help is needed back home.

"Peru, in the last week, was flooded on almost all of its coast," Vivanco said. "A lot of people, especially poor people, lost everything. My country is doing great with efforts to help them, but it's not enough."

If her food is going to be the fuel of her fundraising efforts, Vivanco should have no trouble raising money for Peru. The food she serves at Lima Criolla is fantastic, and her menu's biggest shortcoming is that there are too many good options to choose from.

The Arroz con Mariscos



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Peru native Susana Vivanco wants to promote her culture through her Austin restaurant, Lima Criolla.

brings together deliciously spiced rice with a smorgasbord of fresh seafood like mussels, shrimp and calamari. Despite all the seafood in the dish, the abundant seasonings used prevent it from being too fishy and instead boasts a flavor similar to Spanish paella.

Another highlight worth trying is the Aji de Gallina Limeño. This Peruvian classic features shredded chicken breast smothered in a sauce made from pecans, yellow peppers and parmesan. It's like a hybrid of a mole and a curry. Served only with a hardboiled egg and some steamed rice, this dish is simple, but delivers a memorable taste.

One of the more interesting options on the menu is in the appetizer section. The Causa

Limeña is pureed potatoes stuffed with shredded chicken and served cold. It might not look that appetizing at first, but tasting it will immediately prove why this is one of Peru's most famous meals. It's like a delicious combination of potato and chicken salad spiced with a perfect amount of seasoning.

To wash down these hearty dishes, try the chicha morada, a beverage made primarily from purple corn. The beverage has a distinctively sweet flavor combination of cinnamon, clove and tropical fruit.

Dining at Lima Criolla feels like eating in someone's personal kitchen. A lot of care clearly goes into each dish, and the results are superb.

CAMPUS

Texas Raas showcases ancient Indian dance

By Acacia Coronado
@acaciatree18

Decorative wooden sticks called dandiyas in hand, Texas Raas takes audiences nationwide on a rhythmic journey of folk sounds and modern beats as they give a glimpse of traditional Indian dancing.

Founded in 2003, Texas Raas began as a small group of local dancers who put on performances in the area. Five years ago, the UT Austin team joined the national competition circuit. Since then, Texas Raas has gone on to win multiple awards competing with some of the best teams in the nation.

"We get to travel, we get to stay physically active and we get to meet a lot of people from around the country that share the same passion as us," said Pooja Patel, a former performer and supply chain management junior.

But, more than performing, Patel said she loves this style of dance because of its deep relationship with Indian culture and Hindu religion.

"The history of the dance kind of started evolving around our god, Lord Krishna," Pooja Patel said. "He would basically dance with these women called Gopi and kind of flirt with them and that is kind of how this whole Garba Raas thing started. They would dance in circles and that is kind our main form of dance that we do. A lot of it happens in circles, a lot of it happens with sticks, a lot of partner choreo. It is just very collaborative."

Karan Patel, an electrical engineering junior and current performer, said he was first exposed to the Garba Raas style of dancing at cultural events since childhood but only recently began dancing himself.

"Before joining Raas I never had danced," Karan Patel said. "It kind of surprised me how much I love it now and how invested I am in it now. I

don't know what I would be doing in college right now if I wasn't in Raas."

Karan Patel said his favorite aspect of being on the team is the camaraderie they build during weekend competition trips. He said they have previously competed in locations like Miami, Baltimore and New Jersey as well as in Dallas this past weekend.

"Those weekends are some of the best times of the semester," Karan Patel said. "It is just hanging out with your best friends for the entire weekend. You get really close and it is really fun to explore whatever city you are in."

One of the most significant competitions that they recently attended was the 2014-2015 national championship, where they placed first. Binita Patel, an economics and finance junior, and current performer, said it was an unbelievable moment for the team, one they hope to someday relive.

"It meant a lot, at the end like all of our hard work, tears and sweat, paid off in the end," said Binita Patel.

In the end, Binita Patel said Texas Raas is unique because they don't care as much about winning as they do about performing a dance that means so much to them with a team they love.

"I think that really sets us apart from other teams," Binita Patel said. "They have a very we are here to win attitude and we are here to have fun and do our thing."

For Binita Patel, Texas Raas is more than a competition dance team — it's her family.

"I joined to make a group of friends and fit in somewhere," Binita Patel said. "Honestly, (I) didn't think that I was going to be on this team for three years, and it has actually given me a sense of family away from my home. I have grown a lot through this team. It is my stress reliever."



Chase Karacostas | Daily Texan Staff

Binita Patel, economics and finance junior, Karan Patel, electrical engineering junior, and Pooja Patel, supply chain management junior are part of the dance group Texas Raas.

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